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Report Linking Fluoride to Lower IQ in Children Made Public After CDC, HHS Tried to Block It

The National Toxicology Program on Wednesday released a draft report linking prenatal and childhood fluoride exposure to reduced IQs in children, after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention spent a year in court to publish it.

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The National Toxicology Program (NTP) on Wednesday released a draft report linking prenatal and childhood fluoride exposure to reduced IQs in children, after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention spent a year in court to publish it.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initially [blocked the NTP](#) from releasing the report, according to emails obtained via a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

But a [court order](#) from Chief U.S. District Judge Todd Hall and Reuters [lawsuit](#) against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) forced the report's release this week.

The NTP, an interagency program run by HHS that researches and reports on health hazards, published the draft report and a meta-analysis — a statistical study that combines results of multiple scientific investigations — on fluoride's health effects in humans.

The report, reviewing a monograph and a meta-analysis, went through two rounds of peer review by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's independent panel of experts, and the NTP's responses to each of the panel's comments.

According to its website, the NTP "reviewed the hazardous classification of fluoride" in response to comments in the peer review process. The report states:

> "Our meta-analysis confirms results of previous meta-analyses and extends them by including newer, more precise studies with individual-level exposure measures.
>
> The data support a consistent inverse association between fluoride exposure and children's IQ.
>
> The results were robust to stratification by risk of bias, gender, age group, and fluoride biomarker. Furthermore, the results were consistent in direction (including both drinking water and urine fluoride)."

These findings fly in the face of the empty, unscientific claims U.S. health officials have repeated for decades that fluoride is "safe and effective at any and all beneficial," said Robert F. Kennedy Jr., [Children's Health Defense](#) chairman and chief legal counsel. "All it takes to eliminate the neurotoxin fluoride from our water supply."

"The Wuhan Cover-Up" by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

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Connett said during the trial, the EPA repeatedly claimed that the plaintiffs' studies were not relevant because they were "not the dose that we're fluoridated to."

The documents released Wednesday fill that gap.

Connett said:

> "So now what do we have? We have a systematic review by one of the pioneering, leading, most authoritative research groups on fluoride in the world.
>
> "They just completed a systematic review that took them six years to complete, so if that's not enough to demonstrate a hazard under the toxic substances control law, I don't know what would ever come close to be able to demonstrate it."

The Findings: Fluoride and Lowered IQ in Children

According to the NTP report:

> "Our meta-analysis of experimental animal studies and human mechanistic evidence do not provide clues to explain the association between fluoride exposure and cognitive or neurodevelopmental human health effects.
>
> This review finds, with moderate confidence, that higher fluoride exposure (e.g., represented by populations whose fluoride exposure approximates or exceeds the World Health Organization Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality [1.5 mg/L]) is associated with lower IQ in children."

Levels of fluoride found in drinking water in the U.S. are typically 0.7 mg/L, which is lower than the 1.5 mg/L found to be neurotoxic by the report.

On that basis, HHS review of the reports recommended the NTP revise its assessment such that, "all conclusory statements in the final document must be explicit that any findings from the included studies only apply to water fluoride concentrations greater than 1.5 mg/L."

The NTP responded:

> "We do not agree with this comment. Our assessment considers fluoride exposures from all sources, not just water.
>
> As discussed in the pre-publication 2021 NTP Monograph, because fluoride is also found in certain foods, dental products, some pharmaceuticals, and air pollution, exposure to fluoride from water may not be a good predictor of overall exposure."

Dick North, former CEO of the American Cancer Society's Oregon division and [Fluoride Action Network](#) board member told The Defender that the report's exclusive high amounts of fluoride through tea and other drinks and processed foods, in addition to fluoride in water, rules out fluoride exposure and fluoride from air pollution."

RFK Jr. and Brian Hooker's New Book: "Vax Unvax"

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He also said that people's fluoride exposure can depend on how much water they drink.

"Think about it," North said. "Size of kid depends upon, incredibly, how skinny you are. That's how absorb the entire premise of water fluoridation is" bogus.

The NTP confirmed that people exposed to levels of fluoride lower than 1.5 mg/L in drinking water supplies could have high levels of fluoride in their systems, it said:

> "Even in the optimally fluoridated cities (fluoridated at 0.7 mg/L) in Canada studied by [Green et al. (2019)], individual exposures can be underestimated by repeated urinary measurements, suggest widely varying total exposures (i.e., from non-optimally fluoridated water, food, and beverages)."

It added, "our moderate confidence conclusion is primarily based on studies with total fluoride exposure that approximates or exceeds what is generally associated with consumption of optimally fluoridated water [1.5 mg/L] in the United States."

The NTP also pointed out in our monograph that our conclusions apply to total fluoride exposures rather than to exposures exclusively through drinking water.

"What the NTP is pointing to here is that in some communities, where the dose of fluoride in the water is 0.7 mg/L, the NTP has found that fluoride is likely to be associated with lower IQ," Connett told The Defender.

Also, different people have different risk levels, he said. [Pregnant women](#) and bottle-fed babies, for example, are some of the populations at higher risk.

On this point, the NTP responded in a different HHS critique, writing: "We have no basis on which to state that our findings are not relevant to some children or pregnant people in the United States."

"The margin of safety here just doesn't exist — it is precariously small," Connett said. He added that the lawsuit is "basically a fight over the definition of risk."

Even the [Federal Bureau of Prisons](#) (BOP), which is the law it abides in the case, has determined that fluoride is a risk to the developing brain.

To do a risk assessment, the EPA first identifies a hazard and then determines what dose — what level of human exposure — that hazard harms human health.

Then the agency determines in a given case whether the margin between the existing hazard levels and the human exposure is adequately protective, which EPA said it made a point in a rule to human health.

The Vaccine Safety Project

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Connett said that it EPA's previous risk assessments for other [chemicals](#), such as [lead](#), EPA would have used a margin of safety of 10 or 100 times lower than the [statistical](#) method that guides this case, the agency found the hazard level exceeds the human exposure level by much higher margins — "usually in a factor of 10 or 100 times" — and that the margin of safety is not considered adequate or unreasonable not to human health.

In other words, the substances were found to be toxic to humans at levels significantly higher than what people may be exposed to in drinking water, as the EPA determined them to be risks.

When it makes that determination, the EPA must then take steps to mitigate the risk.

That can also be the finding in this case. According to a [pre-trial document](#), both sides in the case agreed to the "undisputed fact" that the EPA has the authority to require that human exposure levels exceed a known adverse effect level to make an unreasonable risk determination under TSCA.

The NTP documents also raised flags about the implications of seemingly small neurotoxic effects.

"Research on other neurotoxicants has shown that subtle shifts in IQ at the population level can have significant impacts, including substantially increasing the left-tail the higher and real the consequences of the population," Connett said.

"For example, a 5 point decrease in a population's IQ would nearly double the number of people classified as intellectually disabled."

The HHS and CDC officials tried to 'water down' and block the report

In 2016, a group of [non-profit](#) organizations and several [individual](#) petitioners, including Fluoride Action Network, Food & Water Watch and the Environmental Health Trust, submitted a petition to the EPA to ban fluoride in water, citing evidence of health risks associated with fluoride, namely neurotoxicity.

The EPA rejected the petition.

In response, Food and Water Watch, Fluoride Action Network and others sued the EPA in 2017, seeking an end to water fluoridation.

The plaintiffs argued that water fluoridation violates the EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act and that fluoride is neurotoxic and lowers children's IQ.

They based their initial claims on studies of [rodents](#) and [mouse](#) demonstrating fluoride's neurotoxicity. Studies have also linked fluoride to a variety of other health effects in children and adults, and evidence shows it to be an [endocrine disruptor](#).

The EPA denied earlier fluoridation court battles.

A seven-day trial took place in federal court in San Francisco in June 2020, but Judge Edward Chen refused to rule on the case. Instead, he ordered a systematic review of research available on the neurotoxic effects of fluoride.

The report, slated for release in May 2022, was delayed several times and sent the lawsuit rounds of pre-trial motions.

Connett said the plaintiffs' attorneys were experts in their fields and up-to-date on the studies, going back and forth with one external review after the other. North said: "You couldn't ask for more pain" review than what it already had. "It's been unprecedented in the history of science."

In mid-October 2022, Judge Chen ordered the EPA to release the report, but that parties involved could view the NTP review in its unpublished form to better inform his final decision.

However, due to concerns from the EPA, he also ruled the report could not be made public unless the NTP released it.

In December 2022, the plaintiffs filed several exhibits with Judge Chen, including emails between the CDC, HHS and NTP officials that showed efforts to [block](#) the [report](#) and [remove](#) it between the CDC and the NTP. [Additional emails](#) also [show](#) demonstrating that HHS blocked the release of the long-delayed review, the plaintiffs argued.

The documents showed that on May 17, NTP notified the agencies that it was going to [release the report](#) on May 18, but the CDC requested a delay.

Emails also indicated that HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Rachel Levine was "very, very concerned" about the report. The NTP then delayed the release to allow certain wording to go forward, The Defender reported.

Connett said:

> "It was only because we were engaged in this systematic with knowledge of the media that something was press that we were and did extensive FOIA requests and we were able to get documents showing that the NTP scientists considered this report to be complete and ready for publication last May, May of 2022."

North said it was clear the agencies were blocking the release of the report, because it "was so damaging."

"This was a clear case of overwatering," North said. "The National Toxicology Program, after over six years of research and numerous outside peer reviews, had completed its state of the science report."

Connett added:

> "We have emails showing that Levine is the one who put in in hold. Rachel Levine said no publish this report as an NTP publication. She objected to the publication of the report. She wanted to water down the conclusions at all. They may not publish it in final form but we did get the right to get it released in peer a draft report. They will consider it a draft report."

On January 25, [Judge Chen](#) [denied the EPA's request](#) to add another six-month period to the stay he lifted in its October ruling.

The monograph and meta-analysis released yesterday on the NTP's website are both labeled "draft."

Connett said the meta-analysis and monograph are both peer-reviewed articles that have continued to label a draft," North said, "it wasn't."

Experts associated with the lawsuit against the EPA will now analyze and interpret the report in future hearings and then judge Chen will rule.

The next hearing date is scheduled for April 11, 2023. At that time, the judge will hear oral arguments in the case.

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Brenda Baletti, Ph.D.

Brenda Baletti Ph.D. is a reporter for The Defender. She wrote and taught about biochemistry and biology at the college level before earning her doctorate in psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute. She is a proud mom and grandma to two young children.

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Sylvia Lucas
2 months ago

Why? The answer is the statement "Everything Doesn't Of the population come from Pharmaceutical companies and their Medical Doctors who are Pharmaceutical Representatives. Therefore, its easy to integrate the lucrative effects of Fluoride into the Medical Industry. Follow the money.

Reply Share

Daniel Martinez
2 months ago

Reply Share

Beatrice
2 months ago

Reply Share

Mary Ann
2 months ago

Reply Share

Lisa
2 months ago

Reply Share

Dawn
2 months ago

Reply Share

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Jean Marie
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2 months ago

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Jeff
2 months ago

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to the drinking water is safe and effective.
There a numerous papers, reports, opinion pieces. Nothing Scientific.
Note. The minimum requirement for a study would include an independent and a control so that comparisons can be made. Hasn't been done.
They started one in New Zealand Napier/Hastings it did not look good for fluoride and was discontinued?

16 Reply Share

graham321 Brian Johnston
12 days ago edited

I heard that they did one in America once over 2 nearby towns somewhere, can't remember where now and this too was pulled as the fluoride town were at the dentists way more often than the other town, again swept under the rug. The kids in the fluoride free town were way brighter too IQ wise. I think Dr Tom Levy mentions this, i might have heard it from him and he was pals with Hal Huggins? the dentist that he wrote a book with.

2 Reply Share

redhed101
10 months ago

I have been saying this for years as I am in contact with these products and very familiar with the SDS sheets. Once I knew, it was eliminated from the family drinking water, toothpaste, etc. I don't cook with tap water, we use reverse flow through reverse osmosis, which is the only filtration that removes fluoride. The dogs even get filtered water. We do the best we can to limit the exposure. It is NOT good.

3 Reply Share

Joseph C Moore USN Ret redhed101
10 months ago

Every (still intelligent) citizen should avoid fluoridated water and insist to their politicians to desist & eliminate the injurious pollution of the potable water supply.

2 0 Reply Share

graham321 redhed101
12 days ago edited

Actually distilling the water gets more out than reverse osmosis. These are the 2 best ways around this but if you want it straight from the tap then reverse osmosis is the way to go.
Even better still, the French use ozone to get the crap out of their water.
Ozone will kill over 99% of viruses, bacteria, mold and fungh in water.
Read Flood your body with oxygen by Ed McCabe.
Getting a bit off-topic here but he presented proof of over 200 HIV+ people who became HIV- in the early 1990s to Fauci of all people.
He said that he must not have had the disease to start with!. Nice man. Instead of using the billions he had access to each year to treat these things for himself he handed out to father. They have known about ozone for well over 100 years and still deny it.
As this is one 'alternative' method, they can't use an EUA (emergency use authorization) and ever legally as this one method will beat all others, anything that pharma can come up with. They know full well about this but it just goes to show which side they are really on, and it isn't yours.
The 'virus' is nothing, the terrain is everything.

2 0 Reply Share

Gary Brown
10 months ago

Mar 10, 2007 Fluoride & Bone Cancer: Is Harvard Professor Hiding a Link?

Did a Harvard dental professor, who moonlights as a consultant to Colgate, suppress evidence linking fluoride to bone cancer in children? A study done by a PhD candidate at Harvard Medical School was hidden away in their library until someone from the Environmental Working Group and the Fluoride Action Network discovered a copy in 2001. It's conclusions were startling.

see more

6 1 Reply Share

John Vian
10 months ago

Nazi Germany was giving fluoride to the Jews, go figure...

10 Reply Share

Tommy Rimes John Vian
10 months ago

I read that they gave it to concentration camp inmates to make them more docile. Also, I don't know about other SSRI's, but Prozac is a fluoride compound.

6 1 Reply Share

John Vian Tommy Rimes
10 months ago

It dismays me to no end, this has to be the most sickest nation of all history. They are purposely feeding us poison in order to gain control over the cowardly masses who believes, with blind faith, that the health industry wants us to be healthy. In the mean time, they are dying a slow death of chemical induced and petroleum based medicine. And this only skims the surface of what's wrong with America today.

4 Reply Share

Seabreezee1 John Vian
10 months ago

Nope - the Nazi story is a red herring. People said it was used in camps, ghettos or in gulags, but that is all hearsay.

On the other hand, the Manhattan Project in the U.S. WWII during WWII used lots of fluoride, and the behavior of Dr. Harold Hodge with FDA Director Oscar Ewing (Ewing was formerly a lawyer for Alcoa, a fluoride polluter, and FDA was the precursor to HHS) rival Joseph Menegle. Read **'The Fluoride Deception'** for more on that.

2 0 Reply Share

John Vian Seabreezee1
10 months ago

I did a follow up and found this video. Not sure if you've seen it but here it is.

8 0 Reply Share

John Vian Seabreezee1
10 months ago

Thank you. I will follow up on that. Okay, found this...

8 0 Reply Share

BlueGreen John Vian
10 months ago

We did start fluoride right after WW2

3 Reply Share

graham321 John Vian
12 days ago

And where did those German 'scientists' end up after WW2? Most of those who weren't hung at Nuremberg where brought to America and formed what today is called the CIA.
Seems your leaders even then were interested in what the Germans had to offer mankind.

2 0 Reply Share

Caroline Cary Davidson
10 months ago

we've been talking about the fluoride/IQ connection for at least 10 yrs now, in the autism treatment community. I thought it was an established truth but of course our govt agencies function to protect industries instead of people so a decade later, its STILL being suppressed.
same sh** -different day. or decade. no surprises here.

2 Reply Share

Beatrice Caroline Cary Davidson
10 months ago

I had the same thought. I have a DVD from at least 18 years ago about the fluoride deception. And way actually be the title. The really absurd aspect of whether to reveal fluoride toxicity is that every fluoride toothpaste has a warning not to swallow. But if we shouldn't swallow, then why are we putting this poison in our mouth at all? And don't we swallow our water? If fluoride in our water protects our teeth from cavities, then why are we getting cavities? Some dentists actually believe that fluoride is necessary to prevent cavities but a good dentist will tell you that you don't even need toothpaste to prevent cavities. Prevent acidic pH in your mouth by rinsing with water after drinking coffee or tea or sugary drinks, drink water throughout the day, brush and floss. Brush or rinse with baking soda to raise pH. Xylitol is very good for teeth. Coconut oil is good for teeth and gums (brushing or oil pulling). People just need to use commonsense when reading the labels and google big words they don't know.

My niece has dental fluorosis on her teeth due to fluoride toxicity. Her teeth are ruined and so far they can't fix the problem. Now how did that happen? Baby formula? City water? Swallowing her toothpaste? Mouthwash? Her parents might have bothered to find out more about fluoride's safety but they didn't and dismissed me as a radical when I tried to educate them.

2 0 Reply Share

Greg Hill
10 months ago

The excuse used for adding fluoride to the water is that it supposedly prevents tooth decay I believe that makes it classifiable as a medical treatment (https://medical-dictionary ... which means that it cannot legally be administered to anybody without informed consent. How many people who drink fluoridated water have given their informed consent?

4 0 Reply Share

Joseph C Moore USN Ret Greg Hill
10 months ago

AND, there is no way to regulate the amount of fluoride ingested, as water consumption varies from individual to individual. It is criminal to be putting it into our potable water supply.

2 0 Reply Share

Andrew Sellars
10 months ago edited

Its odd that we are told that fluoride is safe in water but if your kid swallows a load of toothpaste you're supposed to take them to the nearest ER... is it a coincidence that as more and more of us drink bottled or filtered water that that we are getting restless and feeling less "Dumbed Down"?

8 0 Reply Share

Beatrice Andrew Sellars
10 months ago

Exactly! This has been my argument all along- based on a little commonsense. AND, as I wrote above, if you shouldn't swallow this stuff, then why put it in your mouth at all?

2 0 Reply Share

BlueGreen Andrew Sellars
10 months ago

Caution on the plastics, full of endocrine disruptors....make you feel non-binary

2 0 Reply Share

graham321 Andrew Sellars
12 days ago

Quite a lot of bottled water is actually just tap water these days.
What is Evian backwards?

2 0 Reply Share

BlueGreen
10 months ago

There's a reason average human temperature is down as well....
https://med.stanford.edu/ne...

see more

4 Reply Share

Penny Pitstop
10 months ago

The government is keeping you safe, yet again. When in reality, they are slowly poisoning us, dumbing down the citizens are reaping the rewards themselves. I am so over all the stuff that they are doing. Here in Australia, the very weird clouds are concerning. It just goes on and on and folk think we live a normal life.

2 Reply Share

graham321 Penny Pitstop
12 days ago

Just like everywhere else in the world people aren't looking up, they are too busy looking at their phones.

2 0 Reply Share

Dimitri Ledkovsky
10 months ago

Government agencies are not your friends.

2 Reply Share

Tommy Rimes
10 months ago

Seems I remember that the first thing Britain did after Brexit was fluoridate the water.

4 Reply Share

graham321 Tommy Rimes
12 days ago edited

Trust me, it's been fluoridated since after WW2, probably way before that too. I wouldn't be surprised if the Germans copied us Brits not the other way around. They may have ramped up just how much they are giving us after Brexit though as it was all privatised by the Tories in the mid 80s.

2 0 Reply Share

Mora
10 months ago

What about topical fluoride treatments? If its not taken internally is also harmful?

2 Reply Share

Caroline Cary Davidson Mora
10 months ago

if its in your mouth, you will be ingesting some of it. It is totally unnecessary. its a scam. proper oral hygiene, common sense and a decent diet is all someone needs for healthy teeth & gums.

2 0 Reply Share

redhed101 Mora
10 months ago

Think of it this way - your skin is an organ and absorbs things like creams and lotions etc. Think a chemical spill, it absorbs into the skin. The mouth is also very absorbant, and even more so.

2 0 Reply Share

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